

Learning and Development Group Meeting

2nd February 2023



Renfrewshire
Area Support Team

MINUTES

Present: Derek Bramma, Alex MacDonald, Jim Melrose, Ciara McLean, Jacqueline Doherty

Apologies: Pam Wilson, Ewan McNaught

1. Next Local Training

Presenters are from Cyber Crime Unit Police Scotland.

6pm entry to set up. Refreshments to be provided.

There will be break out groups. Additional accommodation will be explored but can form clusters within the hall, if necessary.

Presenters will bring all their own IT equipment.

Training on 13th March will be provided by members of Social Work department who will focus on Youth Offending and The Care and Justice Bill.

2. Trauma Informed Practice (TIP)

At AST we were informed that CHS would like 80% of all PMs to have completed this training by June 2023. PPAs should also receive training in identifying TIP by March 2023.

There are concerns about the timescales we have been given and lack of clear information to the AST and LDCs to provide support.

Noted that target setting is only part of the issue; it is vital that we have clear outcomes which would be (see next sentence) observable for PPAs; they need to understand what will be looking for.

Group had a number of questions: Whether this training will be mandatory? If so, why the target of 80%? What will happen to those who do not/cannot complete this training?

Point made that for some volunteers this training may be traumatic and therefore if training is mandatory will these volunteers be exempt?

The AST would like a plan in place to be best able to support the volunteers in Renfrewshire.

First cohort to face this will be those due for reappointment. The AST would not support making 'completing TIP' a condition of reappointment.

Derek to take this forward with CHS.

It was noted that the TIP is not currently in this area plan which ends in March. All agreed that we fully support this going into the next year's area plan.

3. PPA recruitment

Renfrewshire would like to recruit additional PPAs – the campaign will run concurrently with the next PM recruitment drive.

Suggestion that perhaps some of our PMs may wish to become PPAs. Worth exploring with PMs who have recently resigned.

4. Promise Keepers

Derek will put his name on that directory. Agreement that this needs to be a member of the AST – initially this will be the AC and will be expanded if necessary.

5. AOB

SCRA are organising observations for social work trainees. Although we fully support this, there was a reminder that entitled observers, PPAs should be prioritised, then trainee PMs.

Who Cares would be willing to come along to provide a young care experienced person's perspective – this will be scheduled for late October during Care Experienced.

Proposal to host the recognition event on 9th June at the Glynhill in Renfrew.

Further to this meeting

Tom Laurie has been liaising with both the Kibble and Good Shepherd Secure Units with regards to proposed visits.

Kibble is currently undergoing an inspection and therefore are happy to facilitate visits once this is over. The Good Shepherd are in a bit of flux as they are appointing a new management team but would hope to be able to facilitate visits after the summer.

It is proposed that no more than 3 or 4 visitors at any time to avoid young people feeling overwhelmed, but these visits could be done on a rolling programme so 3 or 4 visiting every month. If we agreed on a specific date, e.g. last Thursday of every month, this would allow Kibble and GS to build into their planning.

We might also want to consider individuals having the opportunity to visit both centres.

Centres would need to know how many in total to visit – a best estimate would be approximately about 30 (many will already have been).

In terms of our management of this it was suggested that as numbers attending at any one time are low, we have a reserve list ready to allow substitutions to be made at short notice.

Suggest that the current trainees are advised that this is part of training and stress its importance. For those who have not had an opportunity to visit we also need to stress the importance of this as 'catch-up'.

Previously tours could be organised afternoon or evening as not everyone can attend during the day, therefore useful to continue this model.

Suggestion that whoever is coordinating is there at start to ensure attendees attend and no issues.